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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLAB, FR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON COAL MINE WORKERS' COMPENSATION

REF: STATE 181302

1. FOLLOWING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL ARE PROVIDED:

A. EMPLOYMENT IN NATIONALIZED FRENCH COAL MINES WAS 91,900 IN 1973, DOWN CONSIDERABLY FROM 358,000 IN 1947 AT THE TIME OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME FOR COAL MINERS DISTINCT FROM THAT COVERING OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES FUND IN ALL INDUSTRIAL SECTORS.

B. THE TABLE BELOW SHOWS THE EVOLUTION OF COAL MINING EMPLOYMENT FIGURES AND THOSE OF COAL MINERS RECEIVING DISABILITY COMPENSATION ON ACCOUNT OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS FOR THE YEARS 1954 AND 1973-75:

END OF YEAR	COAL MINERS	ON COMPENSATION
1954	324,746	18,360
1973	131,960	46,141

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1974	126,302	47,555

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1975 126,185 47,728

C. DELAYS FOR PROCESSING INITIAL CLAIMS RANGE FROM 10 TO 11 MONTHS AND FOR PENSION REVISIONS FROM 5 TO 6 MONTHS.

D. AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION FIXED BY THE DEGREE OF DISABILITY (INCLUDING PARTIAL) AS DETERMINED BY RADIOLOGICAL AND OTHER MEDICAL TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN GREAT DETAIL IN FRENCH LEGISLATION.

E. THERE IS NO READILY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE COST OF SUCH PROGRAM PRIMARILY BECAUSE NATIONAL AND LOCAL COAL MINING OFFICES SHARE WITH THE COAL MINES SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME THE WORKLOAD OF THE PROCESSING OF CLAIMS.

F AND G. THERE ARE NO DATA ON THE RATIO OF CLAIMS FILES TO CLAIMS AWARDED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM. WITH REGARD TO CURRENT RATIO THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION PERTAINING TO 1974 HAS BEEN OBTAINED WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT IT EXEMPLIFIES THE EXPERIENCE OF THE LAST 10 YEARS. OF THE 2,902 CLAIMS FILED IN 1974, APPROXIMATELY 935 HAD BEEN DETERMINED IN FAVOR OF THE APPLICANT BY 30TH OF JUNE 1975 OF WHICH HALF WERE FOR PERMANENT DISABILITY OF UNDER 10 PERCENT AND THE REMAINING FOR PERMANENT DISABILITY FROM 10 TO 49 PERCENT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE MINER WHOSE DISABILITY WAS DETERMINED TO BE ABOVE 50 PERCENT. ONE HUNDRED-THIRTY-ONE CLAIMS WERE STILL PENDING.

H. EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN ASSESSED IN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS. HOWEVER, COAL MINERS CONTINUE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE LENGTH OF TIME REQUIRED FOR THE PROCESSING OF CLAIMS WHILE UNION LEADERS ARE PUTTING MORE EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED PREVENTION AND SAFETY STANDARDS.

2. COPIES OF PERTINENT REGULATIONS AND STATISTICS
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HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO DOL ATTENTION ILAB.
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